is fastened per the siding manufacturer's installation recommendations using a nail gun or hammer to install the fasteners **36**. Thereafter, a second course of siding **115'** can be installed above the first course **115** by simply repeating the steps, as shown in FIG. **13**. Where practical, it is preferable to fully install each course **115** before working up the wall, to help insure the best possible overall alignment. Installation in difficult and tight areas under and around windows, in gable ends, etc. is the same as the manufacturer's instruction of the current fiber cement lap siding **10**.

The lamination methods and adhesive system will be the same as those outlined in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,019,415 and 6,195,952B1.

The insulated fiber cement stack-on sliding panels **100** described above will have a composite thickness of approximately 1¼ inches. Depending on the siding profile, the composite siding **100** should offer a system "R" value of 3.5 to 4.0. This addition is dramatic when you consider that the average home constructed in the 1960's has an "R" value of 8. An "R-19" side wall is thought to be the optimum in energy efficiency. A building will be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter with the use of the insulated fiber cement siding of the present invention.

While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the fiber cement siding board disclosed in the invention can be substituted with the aforementioned disclosed materials and is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiments but, on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims, which scope is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures as is permitted under the law.

The invention claimed is:

1. A composite panel, comprising:

a foam backer having a front side, a flat back side, a top face, and a bottom edge; and

a siding panel having a front face, a rear face, a top edge, and a bottom edge;

wherein the bottom edge of the foam backer consists of an angled surface running continuously from the front side to the back side of the foam backer, such that the bottom edge of the foam backer is visible from the front of the foam backer;

wherein the rear face of the siding panel is attached to the front side of the foam backer; and

wherein the rear face of the siding panel is planar and has no lip.

2. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the bottom edge of the siding panel extends beyond the bottom edge of the foam backer.

3. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the siding panel is made from fiber cement; an engineered wood product coated with binders; a combination of cellulose, wood, and a plastic; fiber board; vinyl; or rubber.

4. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the rear face of the siding panel is bonded, laminated, or adhered to the front side of the foam backer.

5. The composite panel of claim **1**, further comprising a starter strip that is complementary to the bottom edge of the foam backer.

6. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the foam backer further comprises a drainage system in the back side.

7. The composite panel of claim **6**, wherein the drainage system comprises intersecting channels in the back side of the foam backer.

8. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the foam backer is made from expanded polystyrene.

9. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the foam backer comprises a chemical additive to deter termites and carpenter ants.

10. The composite panel of claim **1**, wherein the siding panel has a constant thickness from the top edge to the bottom edge.

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